

**DRAFT – 7/26/18**  
**For Review and Adoption by the Council at the July 26, 2018 Meeting**

**DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL**  
**Thursday June 28, 2018**  
**West Sacramento City Hall Galleria**  
**1110 West Capitol Avenue**  
**West Sacramento, CA 95691**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

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**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., June 28, 2018, by Chair Randy Fiorini.

**2. Roll Call – Establish a Quorum (Water Code §85210.5)**

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established. The following Councilmembers were present: Frank Damrell, Ken Weinberg, Mike Gatto, Maria Mehranian, Randy Fiorini Susan Tatayon, Skip Thomson.

**3. Closed Executive Session – (Not open to the public) (Action Item)**

The Council may discuss litigation matters pursuant to Government Code §11126 (e)(2)(A),(e)(2)(B)(i), and/or (e)(2)(C)(i). For a list of these litigation matters, please see the footnotes.<sup>1</sup>

Chair Fiorini stated no action was taken during the closed executive session.

**4. Reconvene Open Session**

**5. Adoption of the May 24, 2018 Meeting Summary (Action Item)**

The meeting summary was revised after it was posted June 18. The revised meeting summary can be found on the Council's website at:

<http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-june-28-2018-item-5-may-24-2018-meeting-summary-0>.

**Motion:** Offered by Tatayon, second by Gatto - Approved the May 24, 2018 meeting summary.

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<sup>1</sup>During closed session the Council will be discussing litigation matters including: (a) *Delta Stewardship Council Cases, Coordinated Proceeding JCCP No. 4758, and (b) Bracewell Engineering Inc., et al., v. Delta Stewardship Council, et al., Sacramento County Superior Ct. No. 34-2015-80002178. ("Bracewell"); (c) North Coast Rivers Alliance, et al. v. Delta Stewardship Council, Sacramento County Superior Ct. No. 34-2018-80002898; (d) Central Delta Water Agency, et al. v. Delta Stewardship Council, Sacramento County Superior Ct. No. 34-2018-80002900; (e) Friends of the River, et al. v. Delta Stewardship Council, Sacramento County Superior Ct. No. 34-2018-80002901; and (f) California Water Impact Network v. Delta Stewardship Council, Sacramento County Superior Ct. No. 34-2018-80002904.*

**Vote:** 7/0 - Damrell, Weinberg, Gatto, Merahnian, Tatayon, Fiorini, Thomson (unanimous pass) and the motion was adopted.

*The video showing this motion and vote can be found on the linked agenda: <http://cal-span.org/unipage/index.php?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2018-06-28>, 00:06:14.*

## **6. Chair's Report (Information Item)**

The Chair stated that Councilmembers Damrell, Weinberg and Mehranian attended a Delta tour led by Michael George, the Delta Watermaster one day prior to the Council meeting. Participating Councilmembers described their experience and thanked Mr. George and Council staff for coordinating the tour. The Chair also noted that Councilmember Weinberg made a presentation to the Fallbrook Public Utilities District in San Diego County on the Delta Plan.

*The video of the Chair's Report can be on the linked agenda: <http://cal-span.org/unipage/index.php?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2018-06-28>; 00:07:07.*

## **7. Executive Officer's Report (Information Item)**

Executive Officer Jessica Pearson presented the Executive Officer's report and noted letters regarding Delta Plan coordination and implementation were provided, including:

- Comment letter from Deputy Executive Officer Jeff Henderson to Sacramento County re: Final South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report
- Response Letter from Jessica Pearson and John Callaway to Patrick Lewis re: Drought Synthesis Study
- Letter from Deputy Executive Officer Jeff Henderson to San Joaquin County Council of Governments re: Comments on the 2018-2040 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy

On May 7<sup>th</sup> the Council staff sent nine letters to project proponents to congratulate them on their award of the Department of Water Resources Delta Levees special project 2016 grant solicitation with the intention of making those project proponents aware of the Delta Plan and offer of early consultation for the covered actions process.

The Council's correspondence regarding Delta Plan coordination and implementation can be found on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/outgoing-correspondence>.

*The video of the Executive Officer's Report can be on the linked agenda: <http://cal-span.org/unipage/index.php?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2018-06-28>; 00:10:10.*

**7a. Legal Update (Information Item)**

The legal update, presented by Rebecca Mills, can be found on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-june-28-2018-item-7a-legal-update>.

**7c. Legislative Update (Action Item)**

Legislative and Policy Advisor Ryan Stanbra provided a Legislative Update, which can be found on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-june-28-2018-item-7b-legislative-report>.

Mr. Stanbra provided a status update for the following bills:

- AB 2053 (Harmful algal bloom taskforce) – Failed to move forward
- AB 2348 (Winter flooding of rice fields) – Progressing
- SB 854 (Delta levees subventions program) – Progressing

Mr. Stanbra brought AB 2441 to the Council for consideration. The bill seeks to redirect approximately \$7 million of State rental income from surface uses such as drilling rights in the Delta to fund clean up of abandoned vessels. Council staff recommended a support position for the bill.

Councilmembers acknowledged support of working to improve the Delta, especially in light of seeing, in person, the negative impacts of the abandoned vessels during a recent tour with the Delta Watermaster.

**Motion:** Offered by Thomson, second by Mehranian - To support AB 2441, abandoned vessel cleanup in the Delta.

**Vote:** 7/0 - Damrell, Weinberg, Gatto, Mehranian, Tatayon, Fiorini, Thomson (unanimous pass) and the motion was adopted.

*The video showing this motion and vote can be found on the linked agenda: <http://cal-span.org/unipage/index.php?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2018-06-28>, 00:24:29.*

**7d. Franks Tract Feasibility Study (Information Item)**

Ms. Pearson introduced Policy Advisor to the Director at Department of Fish and Wildlife, Carl Wilcox. Mr. Wilcox provided an overview of the Franks Tract Feasibility study. The overview identified restoration objectives for improving fish habitat, reducing the effects of submerged aquatic vegetation and modifying habitat for predatory fish, increasing food web support, and improving water quality at Franks Tract. The executive summary for this item can be found on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-june-28-2018-item-7c-franks-tract-feasibility-study>.

Councilmembers discussed the report, including the state's use of already publicly owned land, breach history of Franks Tract, the risk of state-owned lands becoming a

burden due to lack of activity, priority restoration initiatives such as EcoRestore, salinity reduction, and the use of structured decisionmaking process for management actions in the Delta.

*The video of the Franks Tract Feasibility Study can be on the linked agenda: <http://cal-span.org/unipage/index.php?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2018-06-28>; 00:26:08.*

## **8. Lead Scientist's Report (Information Item)**

Chair Fiorini invited Dr. John Callaway to present the Lead Scientist's Report. The report covered one article summary, an update on the Operation Baseline Conceptual Framework Workshop, the Integrated Modeling Request for Proposals, and a summary of the panel discussion on invasive weed monitoring and applications of remote sensing.

The Lead Scientist's Report is available on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-june-28-2018-item-8-lead-scientists-report>. After Dr. Callaway concluded his report, he invited Amanda Wasserman to present the By the Numbers summary. By the Numbers is posted on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-june-28-2018-numbers-report>.

Councilmembers discussed details such as available schematics of the conceptual model for the Operations Baseline Conceptual Framework and how remote sensing can identify and treat invasive vegetation species in regards to the forthcoming Integrated Modeling project.

The Chair noted that he received a public comment request from Tim O'Laughlin for the item, but the requester had left. The Chair left the request open to the end of the meeting, allowing time for the presenter to return.

*The video of the Lead Scientist's Report can be on the linked agenda: <http://cal-span.org/unipage/index.php?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2018-06-28>; 01:00:37.*

## **9. Delta Science Governance: Data to Decision-making (Information Item)**

Program Manager Martina Koller introduced the topic and panel: Tracy Collier, member of the Delta ISB; Cliff Dahm, former Delta lead scientist and emeritus professor, University of New Mexico; and Caitlin Sweeney, executive director of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership. The staff report for this item can be found on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-june-28-2018-item-9-delta-science-governance-data>. The attachments to the staff report can be found on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-june-28-2018-item-9-attachment-1>.

Ms. Koller provided a summary of the Council's performance measures development process, performance measures types, and the performance measures reporting system. The presentation is available on the Council's website at:

<http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-june-28-2018-item-9-martina-koller-presentation>.

Dr. Dahm provided a summary of the use of performance measures in the restoration of the Kissimmee River, a successful large-scale restoration project in Florida. Dr. Dahm described simple conceptual models, the development of the 60 specific expectations (performance measures) for major components of the floodplain-river ecosystem, and the Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program (EHMP). The presentation is available on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-june-28-2018-item-9-cliff-dahm-presentation>.

Dr. Collier provided a summary of the Indicator Evolution Project (IEP) implementation process. Dr. Collier gave an overview about IEP partnership participation, and the process of tracking the recovery of Puget Sound using environmental indicators and the reporting system *Vital Signs*. The presentation is available on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-june-28-2018-item-9-tracy-collier-presentation>.

Ms. Sweeney provided a summary of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), the Estuary Blueprint task status updates for 2017 and 2018, tracking programmatic outputs and environmental outcomes, and the State of the Estuary 2015 report. The presentation is available on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-june-28-2018-item-9-caitlin-sweeney-presentation>.

Councilmembers discussed how performance measures help manage limited resources and make decisions, assess relevance and gaps, and the importance of allowing time to compare change and/or adaptively manage to meet performance measures.

*The video of the Delta Science Governance panel can be on the linked agenda:*  
<http://cal-span.org/unipage/index.php?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2018-06-28:01:30:00>.

## **10. 2018 Priorities (Information Item)**

Chief Deputy Executive Officer Jessica Law presented the mid-year update on the 2018 priorities. The staff report for this item can be found on the Council's website at: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-june-28-2018-item-10-2018-priorities-update>. The attachments for this staff report can be found on the Council's website at: Attachment 1 - <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-june-28-2018-item-10-attachment-1>; Attachment 2 - <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/meeting-documents/delta-stewardship-council-june-28-2018-item-10-attachment-2>. Overall, she said, the Council has made progress on all of the priorities outlined including: the Delta Plan Amendments, the Delta Science Plan, the Bay-Delta Science Conference, the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC), the Interagency Adaptive Management Integration Team (IAMIT),

and the prioritization of funding for critical science. Ms. Law also noted that the Council has hired ten new staff since the start of the year.

*The video of the Delta Science Governance panel can be on the linked agenda:*  
<http://cal-span.org/unipage/index.php?site=cal-span&owner=DSC&date=2018-06-28;02:26:03>.

#### **11. Public Comment**

There were no public comments. The public comment request during the Lead Scientist's Report did not return. Chair Fiorini requested staff review the 2017 Ocean Salmon Fisheries report left by the commenter Tim O'Laughlin. The report stated concerns about the Pacific Fisheries Management Council's pre-season conditions. Chair Fiorini asked Dr. Callaway to consider the topic for a future Lead Scientist's Report.

#### **12. Preparation for Next Council Meeting – Discuss (a) expected agenda items; (b) new work assignments for staff; (c) requests of other agencies; (d) other requests from Councilmembers; and (e) confirm next meeting date.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.